

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P R 281120Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2305

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10810

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALISTS UNITED IN CALLING FOR NEW RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN GOVERNING PARTIES AND COMMUNISTS AT LOCAL
AND NATIONAL LEVEL

REF: A) ROME 10278; B) ROME 10396 (BOTH NOTAL)

SUMMARY: JULY 24-26 SOCIALIST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SUPPORTED
PARTY SECRETARY DE MARTINO'S STAND THAT PSI WILL ENTER NEW
GOVERNMENT WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC) ONLY IF COMMUNISTS (PCI)
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GIVE AT LEAST INDIRECT SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT. DE MARTINO REITERATED

PSI CALL FOR FORMATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OPEN TO BOTH DC AND PCI PARTICIPATION. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MUST NOW DECIDE HOW TO RESPOND TO NEW SOCIALIST STRATEGY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT JULY 24-26 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) SECRETARY DE MARTINO WON UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION (REFTELS) THAT THE TRADITIONAL CENTER-LEFT IS DEAD AND THAT THE PSI WILL NOT ENTER ANY FUTURE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WITHOUT "AT LEAST INDIRECT" COMMUNIST SUPPORT "SUCH AS ABSENTION" IN PARLIAMENT. A WIDE MAJORITY (EXCLUDING ONLY LOMBARDI FACTION) ALSO BACKED DE MARTINO'S CALL FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND "DEMOCRATIC CHRISTIANS" AND HIS REJECTION OF THE ALTERNATIVE OF A RETURN TO A LEFTIST FRONT WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

2. DE MARTINO GAVE CONDITIONAL SUPPORT OVER THE SHORT TERM TO CONTINUATION OF THE MORO GOVERNMENT ON CONDITION THAT IT TAKES APPROPRIATE STEPS TO DEAL WITH PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE CALLED FOR FORMATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OPEN TO BOTH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) AND COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION. ALTHOUGH COMPLIMENTARY IN HIS REMARKS ABOUT NEW DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI, DE MARTINO STRONGLY CRITICAL OF RESULTS OF DC CONCLAVE, WHICH TEND TO PROLONG "CRISIS" OF DC PARTY. SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 9-14.

3. COMMENT: SOCIALIST CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED DE MARTINO POLICIES PREVIOUSLY ENUNCIATED IN JULY 16 PRESS INTERVIEW (REFTELS). ASSERTION THAT ABSTENTION MIGHT CONSTITUTE ACCEPTABLE FORM OF COMMUNIST SUPPORT TO A NEW NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS MAJOR SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENT IN DE MARTINO PRESENTATION. SOCIALISTS HAVE THUS FORMALLY PRESENTED TERMS FOR THEIR COLLABORATION WITH THE DC AT BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. BALL IS NOW IN DC COURT TO DECIDE HOW TO RESPOND TO NEW SOCIALIST STRATEGY. DISARRAY IN DC PARTY HAS THUS FAR RESULTED IN UNCERTAINTY ON PARTY POLICY AMONG LOCAL LEADERS AND CONSEQUENT WILLINGNESS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS (E.G., LOMBARDY - ROME 10278) TO ABANDON PREVIOUS PREJUDICES AGAINST OPEN COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN CENTER-LEFT LEGISLATIVE MAJORITIES. VOLPE

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